

CLAIMS

1. An exhaust emission control device for an engine which is provided with an exhaust pipe comprising:

a first catalytic converter which contains the element Rhodium (*Rh*), and  
a second catalytic converter which contains *Rh* and a hydrocarbon (*HC*)  
absorbent material which absorbs *HC*,

wherein said first catalytic converter and said second catalytic converter are  
provided in series in said exhaust pipe and the *Rh* content by percentage in said  
second catalytic converter is higher than the *Rh* content by percentage in said first  
catalytic converter.

2. An exhaust emission control device according to Claim 1 wherein said second  
catalytic converter is disposed downstream of said first catalytic converter.

3. An exhaust emission control device according to Claim 2 wherein said first and  
second catalytic converters contain Platinum (*Pt*) and a *Pt* content by percentage or  
amount in said first catalytic converter is higher than a *Pt* content by percentage or  
amount of said second catalytic converter.

4. An exhaust emission control device according to Claim 1 wherein a third catalytic  
converter which contains *Rh* and a *HC* absorbent material is further provided  
downstream of said second catalytic converter and a *Rh* content by percentage or  
amount of said third catalytic converter is higher than a *Rh* content by percentage or  
amount of said second catalytic converter.

5. An exhaust emission control device according to Claim 1 wherein said second catalytic converter has a coating of *HC* absorbent material on the surface of a honeycomb shaped catalyst carrier and a further coating of a three-way catalyst on said coating of *HC* absorbent material.
  
6. An exhaust emission control device according to Claim 1 wherein said second catalytic converter has a coating which comprises a mixture of an *HC* absorbent material and a three-way catalyst on the surface of a honeycomb shaped catalyst carrier.